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FROM : A J H Cowell (MED)

DATE : 22 March 1988

NBP 08/2

Mr Young

Six D Miers

DEFENCE SALES TO IRAN AND IRAQ

A
attached 1. I submit the summary record of the meeting of the IDC held on 24 February 1988. The detailed recommendations are shown in Annex A to the record.

Export Licence Applications

2. ELAs were recommended for approval or refusal according to the attached list. The following should be noted:

i) Iraq -Browning 9mm Pistols (Qty 2)

May of London applied for a licence to export 2 Browning 9mm pistols. The IDC noted that the consignee is the son of Saddam Hussein. However, this equipment is clearly lethal and therefore prohibited by Ministerial guidelines. The IDC recommends that this application should be refused.

ii) Iraq-Matrix Churchill Lathes

The IDC noted that, although the lathes have no direct military application, we have information that the supplier, Matrix Churchill, has previously exported this type of equipment to munitions manufacturers in Iraq. The IDC agreed that this application should not be approved until we are certain that the consignee is not engaged in munitions manufacturing activities. The IDC therefore recommends that the application should remain pending.

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Arms Working Papers

3. AWP's were recommended for approval or refusal according to the attached list. The following should be noted:

i) Iraq-Linescan Type 401 Vicon 90

W. Vinten applied for a licence to promote this equipment in Iraq. Approval has been granted in the past for the promotion of this equipment, essentially video cameras for use in aircraft. No equipment will be supplied for promotion purposes, only brochures and literature about the equipment. The IDC therefore recommends that this application should be approved.

Pending Export Licence Applications

4. Pending ELAs were recommended for approval or refusal according to the attached list. The following should be noted:

i) Iraq-Long Range Surveillance Systems

Hawkeye systems applied for a revalidation of a licence which was last approved in 1986. The IDC noted that this equipment, essentially a long range ultra-low-light surveillance system, is outmoded. In addition, it is a passive defence system. The IDC therefore recommends that this application should be approved.

Ballistic Jackets for Iraq

5. Special control SVCS applied for a licence for 1 ballistic jacket for promotion purposes. This was approved. Before visiting Iraq to promote this equipment, the company have requested a decision in advance for the supply of 5000 jackets. Given that this equipment is lifesaving and non-lethal and would not represent a significant enhancement of Iraq's capability, the IDC agreed to recommend approval for this application.

6. I recommend that the recommendations of the IDC be endorsed.

A J H Cowell

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I agree.

[Signature]

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I agree with these recommendations.
Add item 3(i) (aircraft video cameras)
involved supply of equipment at this
stage of intense Iraqi air raids, I
would have had reservations. But only
literature is involved.

Hammond

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